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Historian wearies of one-sided war



By [Stephen Easton](#)

Journalist at the Canberra CityNews magazine, June 25, 2014

HISTORY is written by the winners, they say, and expatriate World War I historian Peter Barton is sick of it and plans to say so publicly at the War Memorial on Tuesday, July 1.

He will use the free public lecture to advocate historical research that actually compares our side's version of events to the mountain of detailed records kept by the enemy, something he says had "simply never happened" before he did it recently.

"We don't even look at the German side of things at all and what I've found is that Allied narrators and recorders have exaggerated and embellished and estimated to such an extent that it's not valueless, but it has a greatly diminished value until you corroborate it with the German records," says Barton, down the line from his UK home.

He says his latest book, which is published on the day of the Canberra lecture, does "something no other book has ever done, and that is to tell a corroborated story" about the battle of Fromelles on the Western Front, in which 5533 Australians were killed in 14 hours. It's often called the worst day in our military history.

"What we've had for a hundred years now is one side of the story. Although the information from the German side exists and can corroborate what the Allies say, no-one has looked at their primary sources, and the Germans tell a very different story to the British and the Australians."

Barton says his book contains a lot of groundbreaking new information about the fighting at Fromelles showing previous historians got the story wrong in lots of ways.

"For example the Australians did not adhere to their orders, that's perfectly clear. In one part of the front they ended up with a line which was perpendicular to the one which they were ordered to take up. That's not in any previous history."

He says a popular view he once adhered to, that Allied commanders were incompetent, is also wrong.

"[The officers] were not to blame, really. The Germans were to blame. They were just very, very well organised."

It seems the Germans were better organised in data collection as well and did so more dispassionately. Barton says their "monumental" war archives are far more detailed than anything here or in the UK, allowing

him to follow actions such as the battle of Fromelles literally minute by minute.

With the Centenary of World War I already upon us and not going anywhere for the next four years, the historian argues a wholesale revision of its history is "absolutely necessary".

"I mean, I've looked at lots of other actions as well – tiny ones and bigger ones – and none of them seem to conform. You look at the Allied record and the German record and they're very different; they tell a different story and in order for us to have a better form of truth then we must have this corroborated history. Without it we're just fumbling around in the dark, really.

"I've been a World War I historian for a long time now and looking at the German records just tells me how little I know about it... they change your perceptions of the entire war.

"It's as if for a century, we haven't needed the German story, but once you start looking into it you realise how utterly essential it is to our understanding. We've got faulty perceptions of the operational side of World War I and it is the operational side that created the personal legacies that everybody commemorates today."

"The Lost Legions of Fromelles" (Allen & Unwin) by Peter Barton is published on July 1.

<http://citynews.com.au/2014/historian-wearies-one-sided-war/>

Public lecture by author Peter Barton at Australian War Memorial

Join historian, battlefield archaeologist and film-maker Peter Barton for a special presentation on the 98th anniversary of the opening of the battle of the Somme.

After researching the forgotten Imperial War Museum panorama archive for eight years, Barton wrote *Battlefields of the First World War*.

His other books include *The Somme*, and *Passchendaele*. Barton will discuss his new book, *The Lost Legions of Fromelles*.

Public lecture by author Peter Barton at Australian War Memorial

1:00pm, Tuesday 1 July 2014, BAE Systems Theatre, Australian War Memorial, Treloar Crescent Campbell ACT 2612

<http://www.aroundyou.com.au/whatson/events/public-lecture-by-author-peter-barton-at-australia>

[Australian War Memorial via Australian War Memorial shop July 1 at 11:23am](#)



The Australian War Memorial invites interested members of the public to join us for a public talk today, 1 July at 1.00 pm, by historian, battlefield archaeologist and film-maker Peter Barton who will deliver a special presentation on the discoveries uncovered in his new book *The Lost Legions of Fromelles*.

<https://www.facebook.com/AWMemorial/posts/10152446124497525>

Israeli group drops case against Sydney academic Jake Lynch



Ean Higgins, Reporter, Sydney, **THE AUSTRALIAN**, JULY 10, 2014 12:00AM
<https://plus.google.com/116716661262546957732>

THE Israeli legal activist group Shurat HaDin has abandoned its landmark racial discrimination case against Sydney academic Jake Lynch over his support for an academic boycott of the Jewish state.

The development was claimed a complete victory by Professor Lynch, who denies his participation in the international boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign was racially motivated against Israeli Jews.

As revealed by *The Australian* yesterday, Professor Lynch's lawyers recently argued in the Federal Court that there were no real, live plaintiffs left in the case, and since it was not a natural person, Shurat HaDin could not have standing as an aggrieved individual.

In an admission of defeat for Shurat HaDin in a lawsuit in which it suffered many setbacks, lawyers for it and Professor Lynch have applied to judge Alan Robertson for the case to be summarily dismissed for lack of standing.

While Justice Robertson has yet to issue orders, the Israel-based head of Shurat HaDin, Nitsana Darshan-

Leitner, made clear to *The Australian* that this was the end of the trail.

She insisted her group had been defeated not on the merits of the case, but only on a technicality.

"We are absolutely determined that Lynch committed an unlawful breach of Australian anti-discrimination law," Ms Darshan-Leitner said.

Professor Lynch, who heads Sydney University's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, sparked controversy when he knocked back a request from Hebrew University of Jerusalem political scientist Dan Avnon to sponsor him for a visiting fellowship, citing his centre's support for BDS.

Professor Lynch described the outcome as a "comprehensive legal victory" that "represents complete vindication for the principled stance I have taken in fighting off a despicable attack on political freedom in Australia". He said the group had agreed to pay his costs.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/israeli-group-drops-case-against-sydney-academic-jake-lynch/story-fn59niix-1226983474575>

Israeli legal centre abandons lawsuit against Sydney academic

Lawyers for Jake Lynch said an agreement had been reached that a racial discrimination lawsuit should be dismissed

Michael Safi and **Helen Davidson**, theguardian.com, Thursday 10 July 2014 13.51 AEST



Jake Lynch says Shurat HaDin has 'effectively thrown in the towel'. Photograph: Australians for Palestine

An Israeli legal centre has abandoned landmark legal action against a Sydney academic, Jake Lynch, over his support for a boycott of Israel.

Lawyers for Lynch said they and a Tel Aviv-based legal centre, Shurat HaDin, reached agreement on Wednesday that a racial discrimination lawsuit against

the academic should be summarily dismissed for lack of standing. They said Shurat HaDin would pay most of Lynch's costs.

Lynch said he welcomed the news that Shurat HaDin had "effectively thrown in the towel".

"I feel relief, and also determination to now make the most of this, because it removes a possible excuse as to why people should shy away from BDS [boycott, divestments and sanctions] activism. We've successfully got the prospect of court action off people's backs," he said.

Shurat HaDin, whose mission is to "bankrupt terrorism one lawsuit at a time", filed the lawsuit against Lynch in October, alleging that he had engaged in unlawful racial discrimination against Jewish people, businesses and organisations by refusing to endorse a fellowship application from a Hebrew University academic, Dan Avnon.

Lynch, who is an advocate of the BDS movement, refused Avnon's request on the basis that Hebrew University has a campus in the occupied West Bank and had close links to the Israel Defence Force.

The case was billed as major test of the legality of the BDS movement, which seeks to pressure the Israeli government over its continuing occupation of Palestinian territories and advocate for a Palestinian right to return.

But Shurat HaDin suffered a major setback in April when a federal court judge, Alan Robertson, struck out key parts of its original statement of claim against Lynch, which sought to frame the case as a class action on behalf of all Israelis, and included plaintiffs who Lynch had never dealt with. Avnon himself was never a party to the case.

Among the grievances alleged in the original statement of claim was that the BDS movement had deprived some of the plaintiffs of the chance to see the performer Elvis Costello, who cancelled a 2010 tour of Israel in protest at the treatment of Palestinians.

All the original plaintiffs except for Shurat HaDin withdrew from the revised lawsuit, which Lynch said "doomed" the case, because the legal centre was not a natural person and could not demonstrate how it was affected by his actions.

Lynch said the agreement brought to an end "the quixotic attempt by Shurat HaDin to establish that any activism in the cause of [BDS] must perforce be motivated by some kind of anti-Semitism".

"They were absolutely rock solid certain at the outset, but all their attempts to prove it in court and to amass evidence and argument to back it up have completely crumbled," Lynch told Guardian Australia.

He accused Shurat HaDin of trying to paint his decision not to support Avron's application for a fellowship as a denial of employment.

"The proposition put to me [by Avnon] was that I permit him the favour of putting my name on his application for the fellowship," said Lynch.

"I had no power to grant him or withhold it from him. He needed two signatures out of the academic staff of Sydney uni, which is somewhere north of 3,000."

A solicitor for Shurat Hadin, Andrew Hamilton, did not respond to requests for comment. The Israel-based head of Shurat HaDin, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, [told The Australian](#) that Lynch had won on a technicality.

"We are absolutely determined that Lynch committed an unlawful breach of Australian anti-discrimination law," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner on Thursday.

A judge is expected to make the orders early next week.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/10/israeli-legal-centre-abandons-lawsuit-against-sydney-academic>

More McCarthyism Aimed Against Academic Freedom and Dissent

Saturday, 05 July 2014 13:40 By [David Palumbo-Liu](#), *Truthout* | *Op-Ed*



"Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism. Stop Israel!" A protest sign against Israel in Norrmalm, Stockholm. Photo: [Jeremiah Roth / Flickr](#)

Recently *Truthout* featured a piece by Chip Gibbons entitled, ["Are You Now or Have You Ever Been a Signatory to a Boycott of Israel? The BDS Movement and the Return of McCarthyism."](#) In it, he outlines the censorious measures taken against those who support BDS, most particularly academic organizations such as the Association for Asian American Studies, the American Studies Association and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. Gibbons mentions the legislation put forward in New York and Maryland (note that this also occurred in Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania, Kansas and South Carolina), as well as the actions of the [Jewish Community Center to vet and censor](#) artistic and cultural performances.

Another practice that smacks of McCarthyism is the misuse of state and federal law to pressure universities to restrict criticism of Israel on campus. In [a previous piece](#) I wrote of the use of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to stifle and punish protests on campus under the pretense that such protests harm the feelings of "Jewish students." In its rejection of the vast majority of such complaints, the US [Department of Education declared](#) that the kinds of protest events that were the basis of complaint "constitute expression on matters of

public concern directed to the University community. In the university environment, exposure to such robust and discordant expressions, even when personally offensive and hurtful, is a circumstance that a reasonable student in higher education may experience."

One of the most active groups that have been monitoring college and university campuses for any hint of criticism of Israel has called for the investigation and interrogation of teachers suspected of engaging in anti-Semitic behavior. The [Amcha Initiative](#) says its mission is "to investigate, document, educate about, and combat anti-Semitic behavior on college and university campuses in America and the institutional structures that legitimize it and allow it to flourish." Its objectives are "to investigate and document the problem of campus anti-Semitism in our extensive database and through investigative reports; to organize and carry out campaigns to address campus anti-Semitism that include communicating with university, state and federal leaders about the problem and possible solutions, engaging grassroots activists, and collaborating with other legal and educational organizations; to educate the Jewish community and the general public about the problem of anti-Semitism on college and university campuses; [and] to foster grassroots activism to act locally and nationally to combat campus anti-Semitism across the country." The problem is that in many cases, here as elsewhere, "anti-Semitism" is a code word that covers any criticism of Israel - a legitimate complaint against ethnic and religious prejudice is appropriated as a kind of Trojan horse to disarm political criticism.

In a letter to the University of California Board of Regents, the [National Lawyers Guild described](#) the ways Amcha tends to operate:

They concoct demonstrably false narratives about specific campus events involving criticism of Israeli government policies, describing them as if they targeted, even violently so, Jewish students. They then paint an overall picture of campuses in which Jewish students are under constant attack in a pervasively hostile environment - in direct contradiction of

actual surveys of those students, who overwhelmingly report the opposite. They write to UC chancellors and CSU presidents, citing falsified events, to demand that they condemn the speech of advocates for Palestinian rights and shut down their campus organizations. They attack academic freedom of faculty members by similarly mischaracterizing expressions of personal views and pretending that the faculty purport to represent official university positions; and by proffering outlandish accusations against academic departments that sponsor speakers with whom they disagree, or that affiliate with academic associations that adopt certain positions on important issues.

A prime example of this kind of harassment is the case of Dr. Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi, an associate professor of Ethnic Studies/Race and Resistance Studies at San Francisco State University. In [a letter signed by the Amcha Initiative, StandWithUs and others](#), the authors assert that Abdulhadi went on a "political solidarity tour" to Jordan, "1948 areas of Palestine" (i.e. Israel) and the West Bank, "a trip whose primary purpose was to build relationships between Palestinian and North American anti-Israel political activists in order to promote anti-Semitic academic, cultural and economic boycotts of Israel. Abdulhadi arranged for the delegation she led, which included SFSU Ethnic Studies Professor Joanne Barker and Abdulhadi's husband Jaime Veve, to meet with at least one known terrorist, Leila Khaled, as well as with a Muslim cleric who had been imprisoned by Israel because of his ties to Hamas and who was again incarcerated by Israel a few weeks after meeting with Abdulhadi's delegation, on charges of incitement to violence."

Abdulhadi, on the other hand, [describes her trip](#) as involving her participation in "an international conference and to research, network, and collaborate with potential university partners towards a possible memorandum of understanding between San Francisco State University (SFSU) and Palestinian universities. My stated intention to research and network with scholars in the region and throughout the world is a legitimate and important use of state funding. As Senior Scholar at the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Initiative (AMED), it is part of my job duties to establish educational and research collaboration on Palestine and between Palestinians in the US and elsewhere in the world. Research and discussion between actors in the US and Palestine is fundamental to my scholarship. It is one of the reasons why SFSU hired me in the first place. These relationships also create academic opportunities for students and my fellow faculty members at SFSU. I am also committed to nurturing AMED as a site for community engagement and knowledge production toward social justice - another reason why I was recruited for this position."

As for her meeting with Khaled, Abdulhadi says, "Khaled is a Palestinian feminist icon. She is therefore relevant to my research and pedagogy, both of which aim to revise Palestinian women's studies by critiquing conventional wisdom within the feminist canon. In my courses, I aim to provide a counter narrative to the orientalist depictions of Palestinian, and other Arab and Muslim, women as weak and docile - and men as bloodthirsty and misogynist. To this end, I screen several films including 'Leila Khaled: Hijacker?' and open these classes to the public."

The university administration has supported Abdulhadi's portrayal of the facts. In his May 28 report to the SFSU president, Dr. Ken Monteiro, dean of the College of Ethnic Studies, wrote:

Though confident in what we had originally authorized, I reviewed Dr. Abdulhadi's travel claim and it is correct and appropriate. We hired Dr. Abdulhadi explicitly for her work in Palestine and with Palestinians in the Diaspora including, but not limited to, the USA. Her travel involved meetings and discussions with people who are related to her research. Her past, current and in preparation publications evidence publicly

that her travel is the basis for her scholarship, scholarship that is internationally regarded.

The Abdulhadi case is certainly not the only one. The Amcha Initiative has made similarly frivolous complaints regarding campus speech critical of Israeli policies. Each of these complaints was either appropriately ignored or dismissed promptly by authorities. These include complaints to:

UC Los Angeles (accusing a professor of anti-Semitism for a link on his course website material related to the boycott movement). See "[UCLA Professor Wins Fight Over Academic Freedom](#)," July 20, 2012, *Los Angeles Times*.

Cal State Northridge and the California Attorney General (claiming a professor's website advocating boycott violates law). See [Letter to California State University Board of Trustees](#) from the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild, September 22, 2013.

San Jose State (against a professor alleging anti-Semitism for organizing a workshop on "Peacebuilding, Nonviolence and Approaches to Teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"). See [Letter Concerning San Jose State University Response to Attacks Against Professor Persis Karim](#) After Conference on Teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, May 16, 2013, Jadaliyya.

The [University of California's President's Office](#) (broadly making false accusations of support for terrorism against all chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and the Muslim Students Association across the University of California).

While it is heartening to see the defeat of such acts of intimidation and harassment, it is disturbing to see the price academics who disagree with Amcha and its ilk have to pay.

Colleges and universities are supposed to be places where there is a free flow of diverse ideas and perspectives. Few of us would object to administrators protecting students from emotional harm, yet most of us, I would hope, would see through the pretense of these acts of McCarthyism, which cynically affix "anti-Semitism" to all those who dare to protest Israeli state policies. In so doing, they impinge upon the academic freedom of these teachers and create a chilly and repressive climate on campus.

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[DAVID PALUMBO-LIU](#)

David Palumbo-Liu is the Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor, and Professor of Comparative Literature, and, by courtesy, English, at Stanford University. He has written three scholarly books and edited three academic volumes on issues relating to cultural studies, ethnic studies, and literary theory. His recent books are: *The Deliverance of Others: Reading Literature in a Global Age* (Duke UP, 2012), and a co-edited volume, *Immanuel Wallerstein and the Problem of the World: System, Scale, Culture* (Duke UP, 2011). He is part of the Public Intellectual Project at Truthout, and blogs for the *Boston Review*, *Al Jazeera America*, and *The Huffington Post*.

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On Monday, 2 June 2014, 16:00, raja chemayel chemayelraja@yahoo.co.uk wrote:

Long live the mother of Palestine

By Raja Chemayel

*One man's journalist is another man's
propagandist*

One man's Terrorist is another man's Hero

*One man's Hero is another man's
dictator*

*One man's dictators is another man's
leader*

*One man's problem is another man's
solution*

One man's faith is another man's myth

*One man's myth is another man's
country*

One man's country is another man's lute

*One man's dream is another man's
nightmare*

One man's end is another man's start

*One man's Syria is another man's
playground*

*One man's playground is another man's
graveyard*

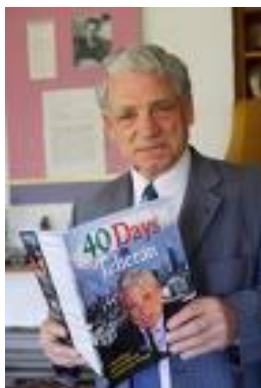
Long Live Syria!

...let's re-run this article from just on 18 months ago.....

No case for Toben

November 1, 2012 by J-Wire Staff

A defamation case brought by Holocaust denier Fredrick Toben against community leader Jeremy Jones has been struck out in the Federal Court.



Fredrick Toben

Judge David Yates yesterday handed down his decision from the hearing heard in the Federal Court in Sydney on August 1. He ordered that the application and statement of claim be struck out and the proceeding be stayed permanently. The judge ordered Adelaide-based Toben to pay Jeremy Jones's costs.

Toben had brought the case against Jones, who is a past president of The Executive Council of Australian Jewry on grounds that he had been defamed. The offending article was claimed to have stated that Toben is an anti-Semite who had said that the influence of the Talmud was pervasive. In his judgement, Justice Yates said that the "commencement of this proceeding is an abuse of the Court's process".



Jeremy Jones

He found that the pleading of the statement of claim is deficient in a number of respects. He added: "Those deficiencies are not overcome by the amendments that the applicant has proposed. The originating application and statement of claim should be struck out."

A member of Jones's legal team told J-Wire: "Toben cannot start new proceedings against Jeremy Jones on the same grounds."

The article referred to appeared in the Australia/Israel Review in 2009. Earlier this year, Toben started proceedings in the Federal Court against Jeremy for defamation and for damages for alleged breach of the Competition and Consumer Act (the Trade Practices Act).

Toben was declared bankrupt in September this year following his failure to pay costs on separate contempt proceedings.

<http://www.jwire.com.au/news/no-case-for-toben/29314>

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...the battle has become a war that I, of necessity, must lose, so it seems. If I hit back it's an abuse of process ... must be because my views are abhorrent, never mind

defending the ideals of free expression and the search for truth!

The list is long – from 31 October 2012 back to 2000 and starting in 1996...
Fredrick Töben

[Toben v Jones \[2012\] FCA 1193 \(31 October 2012\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 31 October 2012; 68 KB)
LawCite

[Toben v Jones \[2012\] FCA 444 \(3 May 2012\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 3 May 2012; 28 KB)
LawCite

[Toben v Jones \(No 3\) \[2011\] FCA 767 \(8 July 2011\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 8 July 2011; 28 KB)
LawCite★

[Toben v Jones \[2009\] FCAFC 104 \(13 August 2009\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia - Full Court](#); 13 August 2009; 43 KB) LawCite★

[Jones v Toben \(No 2\) \[2009\] FCA 477 \(13 May 2009\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 13 May 2009; 63 KB)
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[Toben v Jones \(No 2\) \[2009\] FCA 807 \(30 July 2009\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 30 July 2009; 10 KB)

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[Toben v Jones \[2009\] FCA 585 \(2 June 2009\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 2 June 2009; 21 KB)
LawCite

[Jones v Toben \(Corrigendum dated 20 April 2009\) \[2009\] FCA 354 \(16 April 2009\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 16 April 2009; 253 KB)
LawCite★

[Toben v Jones \[2003\] FCAFC 137 \(27 June 2003\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia - Full Court](#); 27 June 2003; 186 KB) LawCite★

[Jones v Toben \(includes explanatory memorandum\) \[2002\] FCA 1150 \(17 September 2002\)](#)

(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 17 September 2002; 122 KB) LawCite★

[Toben v Jones \[2002\] FCAFC 158 \(21 May 2002\)](#) [100%]

(From [Federal Court of Australia - Full Court](#); 21 May 2002; 16 KB) LawCite

[Jones v Toben \[2000\] HREOCA 39 \(5 October 2000\)](#)

(From [Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission](#); 5 October 2000; 91 KB) LawCite

... CENSORING THE WORD OF GOD ...

Book published for New Square, New York, girls school cuts saucy stories of Onan, Tamar, Potiphar — and Adam and Eve

By [Uriel Heilman](#), JTA, July 2, 2014, 6:59 pm

For some Hasidim, the Torah is too hot to handle.

A recently published Bible study guide in use in a Hasidic village in suburban New York omits certain risque passages and entire chapters of the Book of Genesis, according to Israeli scholar and blogger David Assaf of Tel Aviv University.

The censored *chumash*, or Bible, was printed for Beit Tziporah, a girls school in New Square, a village of Skverer Hasidim in New York State's Rockland County.

For example, the chumash edits out a section at the end of Genesis 19 in which Lot's two daughters get their father drunk and sleep with him so they can get pregnant. The chumash also omits the entire first two parshas, or Torah portions, of Genesis, cutting out the story of the world's creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and

the Tower of Babel, beginning instead at the story of Abraham.

Among other omissions in the chumash: The story of Onan, who spilled his seed rather than impregnate Tamar; Judah's sexual encounter with his daughter-in-law Tamar who was disguised as a prostitute; and Potiphar's wife's attempted seduction of Joseph.

Meanwhile, other seemingly risque stories are left in, such as the tale of Dina's rape, Assaf notes.

To be fair, this edition clearly is intended as a study guide, rather than a full account. Each of the verses intentionally leaves one word blank, for the girls to fill in from memory.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/hasidim-censor-torahs-naughty-bits/#ixzz36OTBI00>

When academics lose their power of reason



[Nick Cohen](#), [The Observer](#), Sunday 4 May 2008

Dr Nicholas Kollerstrom is convinced that academics have punished him for a 'thought crime'. The distinguished astronomer exercised his right as an intellectual in a free society to speak his mind. His university responded by stripping him of his research fellowship and declared that it wishes to have 'absolutely no association' with him.

To make matters worse, Kollerstrom was denounced by University College, London, one of Europe's greatest bastions of academic integrity, whose founder, Jeremy Bentham, defended intellectual freedom with the stirring words: 'As to the evil which results from a

censorship, it is impossible to measure it, for it is impossible to tell where it ends.'

Admittedly, if the philosopher had lived long enough to hear the conspiracy theories of the 21st century, even his defence of free speech might have weakened. Once he was away from his scientific studies, Kollerstrom embraced them all. 'Let us hope the schoolchildren visitors are properly taught about the elegant swimming pool at Auschwitz, built by the inmates, who would sunbathe there on Saturday and Sunday afternoons while watching the water polo matches,' he said of the Nazi genocide. 'Let's hope they are shown

postcards written from Auschwitz, where the postman would collect the mail twice weekly.'

Denying the crimes of the clerical fascists of today comes easily to a man who can deny the crimes of the secular fascists of the 1940s. Kollerstrom has opined at length on how the 9/11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon and the 7/7 London bombings were not the work of the actual bombers, but of Western security forces acting on the orders of - you'll never guess - their 'Zionist masters'.

As it happens, Hasib Hussain, the 7/7 suicide bomber on the number 30 bus, detonated his explosives in Tavistock Square, just round the corner from University College's main campus in central London. The Islamist didn't kill research fellows, but cut short the blameless life of Gladys Wundowa, a Ghanaian who worked as a cleaner at the college.

I can understand how the attempts of one of its fellows to exonerate her murderer repelled the college's managers. Equally obviously, they must have thought they could safely dismiss him as a member of a loathsome group of extremists. Rachel North, a victim of the bombings, would not contradict them on that point. She described how respect for the dead and injured didn't figure in his tormented mind. He harried survivors, she said, tracking them down and harangued them with 'his barking "theories" that the bombers were innocent "patsies" executed by the state'.

A creep from the fringe, then, and a pestilential one at that. But the clearest trend in intellectual life is the fringe developing trends in the mainstream and magnifying them into grotesque shapes. To put it another way, Kollerstrom is not as far away from respectable academics as University College assumes. His faults are theirs too.

If a bomb were to explode outside University College today, mainstream voices would fill the airwaves and say that responsibility for the carnage lay with the British, American or Israeli governments. Their arguments would be passionate and convincing, but I don't need to tell you every one of them would avoid mentioning the Islamist ideology that motivated Hasib Hussain and men like him. To divert attention from a criminal is not the same as pretending that the criminal is innocent. But it isn't so far away from it either.

Media London is currently muttering about commissioning editors being intellectually crippled by a thoughtless version of multiculturalism that can't take account of the differences between liberals and reactionaries, secularists and fanatics, within communities. The BBC caused the resentment by

shelving a drama documentary on the 7/7 bombings after its researchers, several of them British Muslims, supplied a detailed picture of young men caught up by the theocratic justifications for slaughter.

The researchers are bitter, not least because the bombers' families read the script and vouched for its authenticity. BBC people tell me that the grounds for postponing the documentary were artistic and it may yet be made for the fifth anniversary of the atrocities. I'm sure they're telling the truth, but am equally sure that if they do come to film it, they will face internal opposition from colleagues who, in a vague and ill-thought-out manner, think it not quite proper to discuss such matters in public.

As for conspiracy theory, though Holocaust denial is not acceptable in the West, in academia, the scheming Jew is back as a cosmic force able to pull the strings of his dupes and order the world to his desires. American academics John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt argued to widespread acclaim that a conspiracy of powerful Jews decided to serve the interests of Israel by persuading America to invade Iraq in 2003.

Why the Elders of Zion didn't direct the US administration to invade Iran, which wants to wipe Israel off the map, rather than Saddam's Iraq, which was crippled by sanctions, they don't say and, more interestingly, are rarely asked. Liberals would once have dismissed their thesis as far-right ramblings. Now the London Review of Books, house journal of liberal academia, repeats it.

Indeed, although he perpetuates Nazi doctrine, Kollerstrom presents himself as a man of the left rather than the far right. He says that he is not a member of a neo-Nazi organisation, but an active supporter of the Green party, Respect and CND. Given the political gyrations of our times, he may well be telling the truth. Before Bentham died, he asked that his body be preserved so that it could be exhibited at the college he founded. The authorities agreed and Bentham sits in a wooden box in South Cloisters as if to remind academics and students to uphold his commitment to reason.

Rather than seeking to restrict Kollerstrom's academic freedom, their successors would have done better to have agreed to preserve his body and place it next to Bentham's as a reminder to liberal intellectuals of the state they may come to if they abandon liberal principles.

<http://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2008/may/04/highereducation>

...does the following story not remind you of Germar Rudolf's work at Auschwitz?

Why did two German 'hobbyists' deface a cartouche of Khufu inside the Great Pyramid and what does it have to do with Atlantis?

EXACTLY what drove two men to pretend to be archaeologists and hack off pieces of the Great Pyramid? Atlantis. It's a tale of cranks, conspiracies and an ancient cartouche.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu (also known as Cheops) on the Giza Plateau is the largest pyramid in Egypt and the only surviving example of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

The cartouche? It's an ancient red-pigment scribble deep inside the Great Pyramid said to be the linchpin in identifying who it was actually built for. Is it an authentic ancient Egyptian depiction of his name, or a 19th century fraud by a British adventurer seeking fame and fortune?

The conspiracy? That the academic world is colluding to conceal the true age and nature of the Great Pyramids. They're not monumental structures built to contain the tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs: They're really 20,000-year-old Atlantean power stations.

The cranks? Two men who took advantage of Egypt's internal chaos to gain access to the pyramid's inner septa, chip away at its stone slabs and scrape pigment

off the cartouche to "prove" their alternative version of the history of the world.

In November, Egyptian authorities expressed their outrage at the defacing of their nation's greatest monument. Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim vowed to hunt the vandals down and take retribution for the assault on their heritage.

Enter Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann.

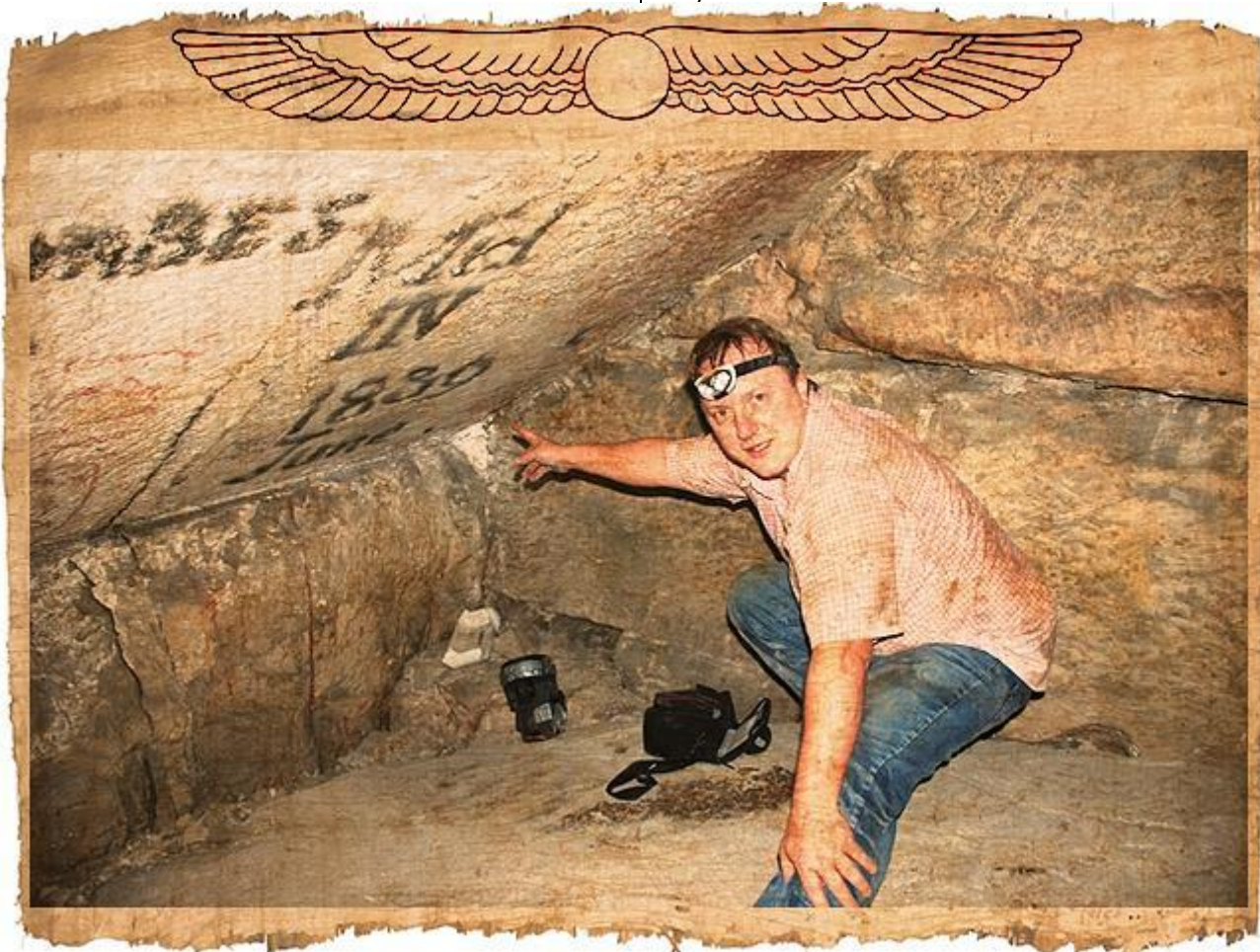
Various described as archeology students from Dresden, amateur archaeologists and "hobbyists", the pair have now reportedly apologised, saying they "meant no harm" in chiselling off samples from within the Great Pyramid.

They said they hoped Egypt's antiquities minister and the Egyptian people would accept their apology and offer to pay compensation.

It appears their apology has not been accepted.

Instead Antiquities Minister Mohamed Ibrahim appears determined to press ahead with a committee of experts formed to investigate what they call illegal secret excavations.

So exactly what happened to evoke such outrage, and why?



Scene of the crime?

Dominique Gorlitz points to Khufu's cartouche in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid.

Source: Supplied

SEEKERS OF THE 'TRUTH'

The men behind the "sampling" of the Great Pyramid insist it was all in the name of science. [Real archaeologists are outraged.](#) But are these 'seekers of truth' all they purport to be? It appears any archaeological qualifications they may claim are self-granted.

[Dominique Gorlitz](#) is a motivational speaker and ex-high school teacher specialising in the fields of biology and sport. His only claim to Egyptology fame appears to be a failed attempt to cross the Atlantic in a boat built to a modified form of those found in excavations at Giza. It sank part-way into the voyage.

[Stefan Erdmann](#) is an esoteric author who writes about a broad range of counterculture conspiracy theories. His books include *The Cheops Lie*, *Hitler lived in Argentina*, and *Banks, Bread and Bombs* which purports to expose the secret world governments of the Freemasons, Illuminati, Knights Templar and ... George W. Bush.

[With them in Egypt was film maker Frank Hofer. His company, Nuoviso, specialises in "exposing" the machinations of the Illuminati and the powers of crop circles.](#)

How did they get permission to enter the Great Pyramid?

The Egyptian government isn't exactly sure. They're continuing to investigate if and how the pair managed to get access to film for a documentary in the months leading up to the overthrow of the previous government of Mohamed Morsi. They assert no permission was ever granted for taking samples or other archaeological work and have expressed doubts about the extent of access actually approved.

Either way, Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim told *Al-Ahram Weekly* that he has issued a complaint with Interpol about the men, instigated an airport watch for them, ordered the suspension of all cooperation with the university they were supposedly associated with and penalised the tourist agency which took them to the Giza Plateau.

He said a "silly trick" was behind the means by which the pair gained access to the pyramid and stated it was "not a quarry" for amateur archaeologists.

But Gorlitz and Erdman are being hailed as heroes by believers. Internet chatrooms are overflowing with praise for what they perceive as brave but illegal act necessary to expose the lies of true archeology.

SECRET SAMPLES

At the heart of the scandal is 200 milligrams of pigment and rock said to have been scraped from inside the Great Pyramid and spirited away to laboratories in Germany.

Why would Egyptian authorities get upset about 200 milligrams when the pyramid weighs 5.9 million tonnes?

The illegal act was targeted at a crucial piece of ancient graffiti in one of the inner chambers, as well as stone from part of the main burial chamber.

These specimens, Gorlitz says, have since been handed to Dresden University for analysis and dating.

[Gorlitz told the Cairo Post](#) that they did not enter the Great Pyramid with the intention of taking samples.

"The decision was made when we were inside," he said.

[Erdmann has told the German magazine *Der Spiegel*](#) that the scraping was not from the cartouche itself, but rather a marking made with the same pigment nearby. The samples had later been taken from Egypt to the Fresenius Institute in Dresden to be examined, he said.

"We are currently conducting mineralogical investigations of the samples that Erdmann brought us. Where they come from we do not know," a spokesman for the Fresenius Institute told *Der Spiegel*.

Khufu's cartouche: Key to controversy





Controversy in motion ... Screen captures from a promotional video for Das Pyramid Projekt. Source: Supplied

EGYPTIAN UPRISING

Ahmed Said, a professor of ancient Egyptian civilisation at Cairo University, stated that the claim by the Germans that the Great Pyramid had been built before the reign of the Fourth Dynasty Pharaoh Khufu was "nonsense".

"It is an act of destruction and a break with all norms and international conventions," he said.

Mohamed Abdel-Maksoud, head of the ancient Egyptian department at the Ministry of Antiquities, said he had asked the German government to take legal procedures against both men.

"This occurrence has ruined the scientific reputation of all German archaeologists," he said.

The incident also has prompted an urgent review of security around the famous Giza pyramid complex.

A formal inquiry into the incident began its work early this month, with the aim of determining exactly what damage has been done and what motivated these secret excavations.

A formal statement by Egypt's Heritage Task Force reads:

"The apology to the Egyptian people by the two self-declared German archaeologists Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann is late and not convincing. It only comes after legal procedures have been started in both Egypt and Germany... It seems obvious the persons in question only want to avoid legal consequences, as there has been sufficient time for an apology before legal action was taken but nothing happened."

The statement asserts that one or both of the German documentary makers is being investigated for illegally taking samples from the Sawwara and Dahshur temples in 2006. It rejects the "spur of the moment" argument behind the taking of the samples as the tools necessary for the task had been carried into the Pyramid.

"Egypt's Heritage Taskforce wonders why visitors should bring metal tools to a world heritage site without the intent of using them. Egypt's Heritage Taskforce therefore rejects the letter of apology as incomplete and questions its honesty," the statements reads.

MYSTIC MOTIVATION

Looming behind the international incident is a counterculture industry driven by conspiracy theories built up around a supposed ancient race of spiritualists whose empire spanned the globe.

And, of course, there's a pending documentary and book titled Das Cheops Projekt (The Cheops Project).

"Who was really behind the construction of the Great Pyramid?" [a promotional blurb reads](#).

"With new dating methods Dr. Dominique Goerlitz and the author Stefan Erdmann want to reveal this secret. The new documentary of Frank Hoefer accompanies the two researchers on their examination to Egypt and many experts will give their statements."

The Great Pyramid is supposed to be among the last remaining traces of the vast "Atlantean" empire - if it can be established that they are really much older than 4600 years.

Official dating of the Great Pyramid, Erdman and Goerlitz assert, is solely based on a single red graffiti-cartouche in the upper vault of the Great Pyramid's King's Chamber.

And they believe the cartouche to be a fake.

"Despite this examination, which shall clarify the age of the (cartouche), the amazing differences between the

pyramids of Giza and other Egyptian buildings are shown," the promotional web-page reads. "You will see that builders must have used hi-tech to achieve the remarkable amount of precision and that the size and position of the pyramids are no coincidence but planned according to astronomical orbs."

The pair dismisses all other evidence of construction work on the pyramids dated to the reign of Khufu 4600 years ago as simply being signs of a "renovation".

The documentary also sought to examine a "discovery" by Erdman from an earlier visit in 2007. He noticed "strange dark areas" on the granite beams in the ceiling of the Great Pyramid's burial chamber. "No experts seemed interested," he bemoaned, explaining that the marks support his idea that the pyramids had technical functions.

Establishing the age of both these elements would determine the truth of their ideas, they assert.

Thus the illegal samplings.

STATE OF THE SCIENCE

Contrary to common belief, archeology is not a rock-solid science. Much of what they understand to have happened in the past shifts and evolves as new - verified - clues are added to the almost infinite assembly of incomplete jigsaw puzzles.

At the core of this scandal is a "controversy" built up around the scant evidence linking Pharaoh Khufu to the Great Pyramid.

Most specifically, it's the aforementioned red-ochre cartouche.

The inscription which reads "the gang of Khufu" was found in 1837 by Sir Richard Vyse, a British soldier and adventurer who used gunpowder to blast his way into the inner chambers of the Great Pyramid.

At the time it was believed to have been left there by the pyramid's builders.

Sir Richard's critics asserted the cartouche was a forgery by the rough-and-ready adventurer in order to justify yet more investment in his treasure-hunting schemes.

But Professor of ancient Egyptian civilisation at Cairo University Ahmed Said says there is now plenty of evidence to support the age of the cartouche - and it's not from the reign of Pharaoh Khufu himself.

Professor Said says the cartouche contains the king's short name and not the full official version as is used during a Pharaoh's reign. It also was written in a cuneiform script, not the long-form of Khufu's time, most likely by a visitor during the Middle Kingdom era - long after the chambers had been looted.

So was Pharaoh Khufu the builder?

Most likely.

Khufu is believed to have been the second pharaoh of Egypt's Fourth Dynasty. His reign is poorly understood, but there are a few mentions of him in much later accounts by historians from Ancient Greece, among others.

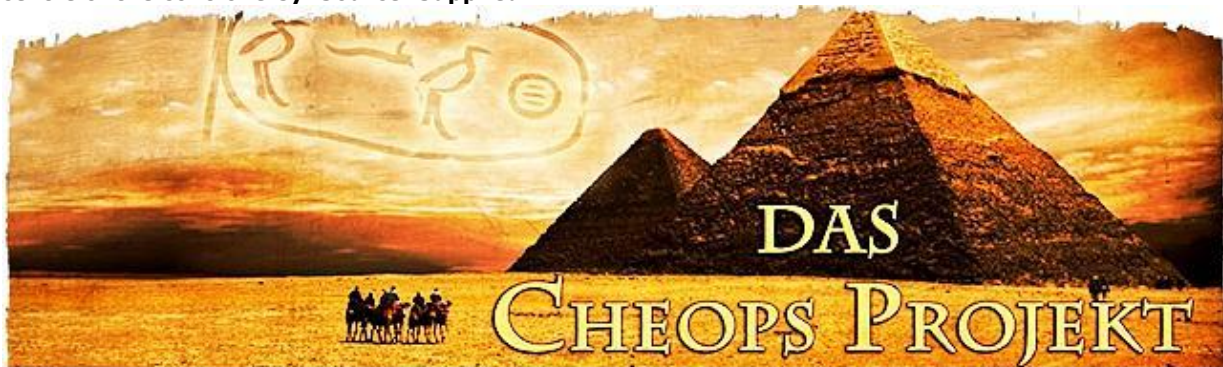
Most of what we know about him comes from the fragmented remains of his extensive necropolis, which stood at the foot of the Great Pyramid itself.

Among the strongest surviving physical evidence that the Great Pyramid was built by Khufu are some extraordinary scraps of papyrus found preserved near the Red Sea, at a place called Wadi al-Jarf.

Among the recovered texts is a three-month portion of the "Diary of Merrer" which outlines his life as an overseer of the construction of the Great Pyramid. This explanation does not satisfy Gerlitz and Erdman.



Fragmentary evidence ... The only complete surviving image of Pharaoh Khufu, right, and the red-ochre cartouche at the centre of the controversy. Source: Supplied



True believers ... Dominique Gerlitz and Stefan Erdmann beneath the title screen for their homepage, "The Cheops Project". Source: Supplied

WHAT NEXT?

After returning from Egypt, the group posted clips from their documentary online. These showed their expedition inside the Great Pyramid and detailed the difficulties they had faced in accessing the red cartouche.

So why haven't we seen the documentary on the History, Discovery or National Geographic Channels yet?

They don't have enough cash to finish it.

Funded through a crowdsourcing program, the project has so far fallen far short of its \$85,000 goal.

"With the elaborate film shootings and the expensive and the hard to get permissions to film in Egypt we could get the important samples (documented)," their promotion states. "This was privately pre-financed. More financial resources are necessary to bring the

documentary to an end in short period of time. Especially the expensive lab analysis of the samples are only possible with a five digit amount of euros."

The crowdsourcing page has since been withdrawn.

[As have most of the videos showing clips of Gerlitz and Erdman.](#)

[But the video company's promotional page remains.](#)

Perhaps we'll get to see their story yet.

Until then, enjoy the uproar on social media.

[RELATED: King Tut's erection arouses curiosity](#)

[RELATED: Atlantis-killer volcano stirs again](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/science/why-did-two-german-hobbyists-deface-a-cartouche-of-khufu-inside-the-great-pyramid-and-what-does-it-have-to-do-with-atlantis/story-fnjwl1aw-1226802932762>

Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann,

Commentary is shown in red. The names of fallacies are shown in all-capitals.

Overall, the ubiquitous fallacies are SUPPRESSED EVIDENCE (aka "cherry-picking") and LOADED LANGUAGE. The article pointedly fails to mention anything which might bring the official (actually Biblical) fairytale into doubt, such as for just one example the Horizon Pyramid's precise location 10x its own width, exactly 1 1/4 arcminutes, south of the 30th Parallel, something which is possible to observe only with artificial satellites and radio telemetry (the GPS system, which is also adjusted for relativistic errors).

The Germans in question also themselves present a FALSE DILEMMA. The excluded possibility is that the "cartouche" is actually modern (chief suspect = Howard Vyse). The pigment cannot be carbon-dated, being mineral red ochre still used by modern Egyptian quarrymen to mark blocks. However, if brush fibres were to be found in the pigment, they could be carbon-dated. Whether this is what the intrepid pair is up to is not stated.

Two German men who visited the Egyptian pyramids in April 2013 now face criminal charges for their attempt to prove their "alternative history" conspiracy theories through vandalism. The men, Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann, were joined by a third German, a filmmaker who accompanied them to document their "discoveries."

Fallacies = LYING and AD HOMINEM. The men have been charged with vandalism, not with attempting to prove an alternative origin for the pyramid. "Conspiracy theory" and "conspiracy theorist" are both derogatory terms and were actually invented by the CIA to attack anyone who questioned the official story of the assassination of JFK. Their use is not dissimilar to that old chestnut "antisemite". In common parlance, they are "Shut up! I don't want to hear it!" arguments. LOADED LANGUAGE (putting the word 'discoveries' in double apostrophes).

The men were allowed to enter the inner chambers of the Great Pyramid at Giza normally off-limits to the public and restricted to authorized archaeologists and Egyptologists. The group reportedly took several items from the pyramids, including taking samples of a cartouche (identifying inscription) of the pharaoh Khufu, also known as Cheops.

Fallacies = APPEAL TO AUTHORITY and BEGGING THE QUESTION (a form of CIRCULAR REASONING, the answer to the question is contained in the question, which is whether the "cartouche of Khufu" is genuine.)

Goerlitz and Erdmann, who are not archaeologists but have instead been described as "hobbyists," allegedly smuggled the artifacts out of the country in violation of

strict antiquities laws, according to news reports.

Fallacies = AD HOMINEM (doubled) + RED HERRING

In addition to the three Germans, six Egyptians are being held in connection with the case, including several guards and inspectors from the Egyptian Antiquities Ministry who allowed the men into the pyramid. Tourism, one of Egypt's most important industries, has dropped dramatically in recent years due to social and political unrest. Tour-agency owners — including one of the men recently arrested in connection with this case — are often willing to bend or break the rules if it means satisfying wealthy foreigners, news reports suggest.

The German government expressed outrage over the acts, and categorically stated the men were private citizens and not in any way affiliated with its German Archaeological Institute. [\[Photos of the German hobbyists and Great Pyramid\]](#)

Fallacies = APPEAL TO AUTHORITY + APPEAL TO EMOTION (Argument from Outrage) + AD HOMINEM

Trying to prove a conspiracy

Goerlitz and Erdmann acknowledged their acts, and even went so far as to post photographs and videos of themselves vandalizing the archaeological sites. However, they claimed their goal was a noble one: to prove their "alternative history" **conspiracy theory** that the pyramids were not built by ancient Egyptians.

AD HOMINEM (Refutation by Caricature). LOADED LANGUAGE.

<http://pinterest.com/pin/create/button/?url=http%3A//www.livescience.com/43469-great-pyramidvandalizedbyconspiracytheorists.html&media=http://i.livescience.com/images/i/000/062/708/original/gorlitzcartouchekhufu.jpg?1392768305&description=The%20men%20are%20apparently%20convinced%20the%20cartouche%20identifying%20Khufu%20as%20the%20creator%20of%20the%20Great%20Pyramid%20at%20Giza%20is%20a%20fake.%3Cbr%20%3E>

The men are apparently convinced the cartouche identifying Khufu as the creator of the Great Pyramid at Giza is a fake.

Credit: screengrab, YouTube

[View full size image](#)

The men are apparently convinced the cartouche identifying Khufu as the creator of the Great Pyramid at Giza is a fake, and they hoped to do an analysis on the pigments to prove they were not **as old as the pyramids themselves**. In essence, they claimed, pharaoh Khufu simply put his name on (and took credit for) pyramids that had been built thousands of years earlier by people from the [legendary](#)

No body actually knows how old the Giza pyramids are. Nobody knows if King Khufu even existed, much less when. On the basis of a hearsay claim by Herodotus, Khufu was inserted into a "kinglist" concocted by Jean Francois Champollion from the Jewish scriptures.

Regrettably the Germans appear themselves to be trying to validate their own foregone conclusion. That is to say that they appear to have excluded the possibility that the "cartouche" is a modern forgery. To be truly scientific would be to date the samples (were that actually possible) without prejudice and present the results so everyone can present their own interpretation of the facts.

L city of Atlantis. They accuse mainstream archaeologists of covering up — or willfully ignoring — evidence pointing to non-Egyptian origins of the pyramids.

The conspiracy theories that Goerlitz and Erdmann endorse did not appear in a vacuum; instead, they have been widely promoted by best-selling authors such as Erich von Däniken, who wrote "Chariots of the Gods?" first published in 1968. Such authors claim the true builders of the pyramids were not ancient Egyptians but instead others, like extraterrestrials or residents of the legendary Atlantis. While "alternative history" and "ancient astronaut" theorists such as von Däniken do not explicitly endorse vandalism of any Egyptian sites, Goerlitz and Erdmann's actions were clearly driven by belief in such theories. **(Ancient-astronaut theorists propose, unscientifically, that extraterrestrials intelligently designed humans.)**

AD HOMINEM (Guilt by Association).

The true pyramid builders

As physicist Wolfgang Pauli famously said about a ludicrous idea, "It's not even wrong." There are countless glaring fallacies in Goerlitz and Erdmann's wild theory, beginning with the fact that Atlantis never existed; it was first described in two dialogues by Plato — the "Timaeus" and the "Critias" — written around 330 B.C. The Atlantis discussed by Plato did not refer to any actual ancient empire, because the dialogues were fictional stories and fables. Suggesting that people from Plato's Atlantis built the pyramids is like saying people from Tolkien's Middle Earth built the pyramids, or inhabitants of Superman's home planet of Krypton built the pyramids — it makes no sense, because they're fictional characters. [\[Top 10 Wild Conspiracy Theories\]](#)

APPEAL TO IGNORANCE (Absence of evidence is not good enough evidence of absence). AD HOMINEM (Refutation by Caricature). LOADED LANGUAGE.

Aside from that, there's clear evidence that ancient Egyptians did, indeed, build the pyramids. Ken Feder, an archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Central Connecticut State University and author of "Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in

Archaeology" (McGraw-Hill, 2013) takes a dim view of such baseless ideas.

APPEAL TO AUTHORITY. LOADED LANGUAGE.

"Here's an archaeological shocker: Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids," Feder told Live Science. "Contrary to what some purveyors of fantasy maintain, the technological skills necessary to construct the pyramids were not unknown in ancient Egypt. In actual fact, the Great Pyramid at Giza was the culmination of a lengthy, multigenerational, evolutionary process."

BURDEN OF PROOF (multiple). LOADED LANGUAGE.

Archaeologists have found several early, failed attempts to build the pyramids, Feder noted. "Early attempts at true, geometric pyramid burial monuments resulted in spectacular screw-ups, including a 'collapsed' pyramid (the slope of the face of the monument was too steep)," Feder said. "In another attempt, cracks appeared in the lower part of the pyramid, again because the slope was too steep and one corner of the pyramid was positioned on a soft, sandy base."

BIASED SAMPLE. FALSE ANALOGY. COMPOSITION (at question is only the Horizon Pyramid).

"Finally, the Egyptian builders were not above taking credit for their labors; workers sometimes actually incised dates onto pyramid blocks, and one piece of graffiti in a chamber in the Great Pyramid bears the phrase, 'We did this with pride in the name of our great King Khnum-Khuf,' another name for the Pharaoh Khufu," he added.

LYING (there are no incisions, much less incised dates in the Horizon Pyramid). LYING ("dynastic" Egyptian workers were illiterate). LYING (dynastic Egyptians did not speak modern English). BEGGING THE QUESTION (the whole point is to prove or disprove two separate issues - firstly whether the "cartouche" is ancient or modern - not asked by the German pair - and secondly, if ancient then whether it was put there by the actual builders). NON SEQUITUR (the contents of the text, even if correctly translated, do not prove its authenticity).

In the end, "There is no controversy concerning who built the pyramids," Feder said. "Anyone caught trying to rewrite this history through theft or subterfuge isn't doing archaeology. They're breaking the law and insulting the memory of the thousands of ancient workers whose labors produced one of the wonders of the ancient world."

LYING. APPEAL TO EMOTION. RED HERRING. SELECTIVE ATTENTION. CONFIRMATION BIAS.



Playing with Egypt's heritage

Egypt's ancient heritage has been put at risk by a pair of amateur German archaeologists, reports Nevine El-Aref

The Great Pyramid of Khufu on the Giza Plateau is the oldest and largest pyramid in Egypt and the only surviving monument of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. However, it seems that it has now been subjected to damage by two amateur German archaeologists from Dresden University, who according to a press release from the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA) stole samples of a cartouche of Khufu from a small room on top of the king's burial chamber inside the Great Pyramid.

The ministry has imposed penalties and taken legal action against both archaeologists, Dominique Goerlitz and author Stefan Erdmann, as well as against Dresden University.

It has also suspended scientific cooperation with the university as well as with the German laboratory that analysed the stolen items from Khufu's Pyramid.

Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim told Al-Ahram Weekly that the ministry's permanent committee had imposed a number of penalties against the Germans, their university and the tourism agency that had taken them on a tour around the plateau. He described the secret trip that the men had taken inside the Pyramid as a "silly trick" and asserted that the Great Pyramid was "not a quarry" from which amateur researchers could take a few crumbs. Ibrahim has also sent the case to the prosecutor-general for

investigation and notified Interpol to put the German archaeologists on Egypt's airport watch list.



The hall where the cartouche is engraved

Mohamed Abdel-Maksoud, head of the ancient Egyptian department at the ministry, said that members of the MSA who had helped the men had been identified, but that their names would not be announced until the completion of the investigations.

A large-scale change of Giza Plateau inspectors will be implemented within two days, he said, in order to know with certainty who had helped the two Germans. "This occurrence has ruined the scientific reputation of all German archaeologists," he said, asking the German government to take legal procedures against both amateur archaeologists.

Abdel-Maksoud said that the incident constituted damage to a very significant monument on the UNESCO World Heritage List and that both Egypt and Germany were members of the UN organisation's World Heritage Committee. Egypt, he went on, had documents implicating the two Germans in damaging the World Heritage Monument and stealing and smuggling part of it.

The German embassy in Cairo responded in a press release by denouncing what the German researchers had done in accessing the room in the Great Pyramid and taking the samples for analysis without permission from the MSA. It announced that the researchers were not affiliated with the German embassy in Cairo or the German Archaeological Institute or any official mission from Germany to Egypt.

In a statement, the embassy confirmed that investigations would be carried out in Egypt where the incident was committed, but said that the embassy was not yet in contact with the Egyptian government concerning the case. It confirmed its full support for the Egyptian government in its role as the protector of the country's ancient monuments.

The statement highlighted the strong relationship between Egypt and Germany in the archaeological field. The German Archaeological Institute denounced the incident and described it as "a fraud" that had been committed in order to obtain the samples of Khufu's cartouche. Both the German embassy and the Archaeological Institute would supply the Egyptian government with any needed information, it said.

"It is an act of destruction and a break with all norms and international conventions," said Ahmed Said, a professor of ancient Egyptian civilisation at Cairo University. He added that Egyptian inspectors may have been involved in the incident, since the German researchers could not have accessed the Pyramid without their help.

Said said that even when they had entered the room within the Great Pyramid they would have needed a ladder to reach the cartouche, which was carved at the top of an inside wall. Said said that any Egyptians who had been involved in the theft were "traitors" who had shown themselves to be disloyal to their country and its heritage.

The story came to light earlier this week when a documentary entitled **The Cheops Project** was put on YouTube. The documentary showed researcher Dominique Goerlitz and author Stefan Erdmann during their secret trip inside Khufu's

Pyramid and the difficulty they faced in reaching the cartouche. The aim of the documentary, according to the researchers, was to reveal the secrets of the Pyramid's construction and its date.

The documentary related the discovery of the hieroglyphs and the cartouche of Cheops (Khufu) in the interior of the Great Pyramid in 1837 by the British researcher Howard Vyse. The authenticity of this cartouche has long been questioned, and though Egyptologists are confident of the authenticity of the cartouche, Vyse himself came under suspicion of having faked it.

If this could be proven, it would open up speculation about the builders of the Giza Pyramids. In the past, only the correct spelling of the Pharaoh's name was at issue, but Goerlitz and Erdmann had wanted to determine the cartouche's authenticity by using new examination and dating methods. A sample of the cartouche was taken during an expedition with a camera crew and is now in the hands of a well-known institute for laboratory analysis in Germany.

Said criticised the two Germans' working methods and their claim that the Pyramid had been built before the reign of the Fourth Dynasty Pharaoh, saying that this was "nonsense". The cartouche could be dated to an era after the reign of Khufu himself, Said said, adding that inspections carried out many years ago had revealed that the cartouche had been written after the Pyramid's completion because it contained the Pharaoh's short name and not his official name and was written in script.

He said that the cartouche had been written during the Middle Kingdom, which could be shown by the style of writing used. He said that graffiti left by visitors in antiquity on the walls of monuments had helped Egyptologists to know the short names of several kings, among them Djoser.

New Kingdom graffiti left on the walls of the monuments at Saqqara had revealed that king Nesri-Khet was in fact Djoser, he said. "If we had not found this graffiti on the wall, we would not have known that king Nesri-Khet was Djoser and that this was his short name," Said added.

Meanwhile the German magazine Der Spiegel said in its online edition that permission to enter the Pyramid had been given, but that Erdmann and Goerlitz had gone much further than what this permission had allowed by scraping traces from the painted ceiling of the king's chamber.

Erdmann told the Spiegel that "we have the royal cartouche, of course, which is not affected, and we have written a letter of apology." Erdmann had then taken the samples from Egypt to the Fresenius Institute in Dresden to be examined.

However, anyone wanting to research a monument or archaeological site in Egypt needs prior approval from the MSA. This is only given following an official request and checks on the researcher's credentials and qualifications. Only if tests cannot be carried out within Egypt can samples be taken for testing abroad, and then only under the strictest controls.

The Fresenius Institute where the samples are being examined expressed its surprise at the controversy.

"We are currently conducting mineralogical investigations of the samples that Erdmann brought us. Where they come from we do not know," a spokesman told Der Spiegel.

Meanwhile, the offending YouTube video has now been taken down from the site.

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/4757/47/Playing-with-Egypt%E2%80%99s-heritage.aspx>

View: [The Cheops project - two Germans accused for vandalizing the pyramid](#)

Our friend Gabriel told me this: "Scroll down on Robert Bauval's Facebook page if you haven't seen it yet. He has lots of updates about this including recent media coverage in the Egyptian press back in December 2013. Robert interestingly released a book soon after all the hype occurred. Fergany, by the way, is the person who legally and properly arranged for these men to have private time in the Great Pyramid but not to go into those chambers to remove ancient paint. I saw the permit document and sat with Fergany and the two antiquity

inspectors who were involved, all of them cleared of any wrongdoing after a police investigation. With all that being said, Robert Bauval and Dr. Zahi Hawass, despite appearing to be enemies, are not telling the world of the REAL secret chamber inside the Great Pyramid which was discovered by Larry Hunter. And not the chamber discussed in Robert Bauval's book which is why I think he is a zionist shill. The real secret chamber is a massive chamber a couple hundred feet in height which has been robbed and sold of its contents (by Hawass and Suzanne Mubarak, the wife of the ex-Egyptian President), with a wall in the chamber that has a couple dozen English names caved on it, and doorways going down to ancient roadways beneath the Giza Plateau which stretch for miles. Me getting access to this chamber is quite doable. It just requires funds. And I am terrible sad that I am not about

to expose all this myself, as well as other secrets here, simply due to low funds which we are all suffering from due to 'Pope' Francis blocking the Christ. The good news is that one day we won't have to worry about this and the Great Pyramid, the Altar to the Lord in the Midst of Egypt, will be under Christ Yahweh's control. And mark my words, I will find and retrieve all the stolen artifacts for Egyptians, despite the fact they are rejecting Christ and refusing to announce His return thus putting all the INTENSE and STRESSFUL pressure on me by doing the work of ALL the religious leaders and religious people here in Egypt.

<https://www.facebook.com/robbo50333?f...>

Robert Bauval "

German conspiracy theorists vandalize Great Pyramid to prove it was built by Atlantis

**Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann are being held for allegedly entering off-limits areas
of the pyramid and then smuggling artifacts out of the country.**

BY [STEPHEN REX BROWN](#) NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, Thursday, February 20, 2014, 8:52 AM

Two German boneheads are facing criminal charges for entering off-limits areas of the Great Pyramid at Giza to prove a far-fetched conspiracy theory.

The men, who describe themselves as "hobbyists," believe that the marvel of the ancient world was not built by Egyptians, but instead by people from the fictional city of Atlantis.

Extraterrestrials may have been involved, too.

Dominique Goerlitz and Stefan Erdmann visited the pyramid in April 2013 and were able to persuade tourism officials to let them enter areas normally restricted to archaeologists, [Live Science](#) reported.

The bozos, who were accompanied by a videographer, allegedly swiped several items from inner chambers of the structure built around 2560 BC, including an inscription bearing the name of the Pharaoh Khufu, [according to the site](#).

The "evidence" Goerlitz and Erdmann collected supposedly backed up their theory that the pyramids predate Khufu, who was buried there. They allegedly smuggled some of their loot out of the country and back to Germany — a violation of Egypt's strict laws protecting historic artifacts.

[Photos of the pair inside the pyramid](#) remain online, though a video they filmed of their investigation has been taken down.

The case [infuriated Egyptian officials](#), and Live Science reported that along with the three Germans, six Egyptians are also being held, including several guards and inspectors from the Egyptian Antiquities Ministry who allowed the nutcases to enter the sacred tomb.

It was unclear what specific charges they will face.

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Two German conspiracy theorists who believe the Great Pyramid at Giza was built by people from Atlantis are in big trouble after allegedly smuggling artifacts out of the sacred structure to prove their theory. PATRICK BAZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/german-conspiracy-theorists-vandalize-great-pyramid-prove-built-atlantis-article-1.1620826>